

Forest Service, USDA

§ 251.83

§ 251.82 Appealable decisions.

(a) The rules of this subpart govern appeal of written decisions of Forest Service line officers related to issuance, denial, or administration of the following written instruments to occupy and use National Forest System lands, including but not limited to:

(1) Permits for ingress and egress to intermingled and adjacent private lands across National Forest System lands, 36 CFR 212.8 and 212.10.

(2) Permits and occupancy agreements on National Grasslands and other lands administered under the provisions of title III of Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act issued under 36 CFR 213.3.

(3) Grazing and livestock use permits issued under 36 CFR part 222, subpart A.

(4) Mining plans of operation under 36 CFR part 228, subpart A.

(5) Mining operating plans for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area issued under 36 CFR 292.17 and 292.18.

(6) Permits and agreements regarding mineral materials (petrified wood and common varieties of sand, gravel, stone, pumice, pumicite, cinder, clay and other similar materials) under 36 CFR 228, subpart C.

(7) Permits authorizing exercise of mineral rights reserved in conveyance to the United States issued under 36 CFR part 251, subpart A.

(8) Special use authorizations issued under 36 CFR part 251, subpart B, except, as provided in § 251.60(g), for suspension or termination of easements issued pursuant to 36 CFR 251.53(e) and (e)(1).

(9) Permits for uses in Wilderness Areas issued under 36 CFR 293.3.

(10) Permits to excavate and/or remove archaeological resources issued under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act 1979 and 36 CFR part 296.

(11) Approval/non-approval of Surface Use Plans of Operations related to the authorized use and occupancy of a particular site or area.

(12) Decisions related to the standards for the use, subdivision, and development of privately owned property within the boundaries of the Sawtooth

National Recreation Area pursuant to 36 CFR part 292, subpart C.

(b) Written decisions on any of the matters of the type listed in paragraph (a) of this section issued by a Forest Service staff officer with delegated authority to act for a Forest Service line officer are considered to be decisions of the line officer.

[54 FR 3362, Jan. 23, 1989, as amended at 54 FR 34510, Aug. 21, 1989]

§ 251.83 Decisions not appealable.

The following decisions are not appealable under this subpart:

(a) Decisions appealable to the Agriculture Board of Contract Appeals, USDA, under 7 CFR part 24.

(b) Decisions involving Freedom of Information Act denials under 7 CFR part 1 or Privacy Act determinations under 7 CFR 1.118.

(c) Decisions for which the jurisdiction of another Government agency, the Comptroller General, or a court to hear and settle disputes supersedes that of the Department of Agriculture.

(d) Recommendations of Forest Service line officers to higher ranking Forest Service line officers or to other entities having final authority to implement the recommendation in question.

(e) Decisions appealable under separate administrative proceedings, including, but not limited to, those under 36 CFR 223.117 (Administration of Cooperative for Federal Sustained Yield Units); 7 CFR 21.104 (Eligibility for Recreation Payment of Amount); and 4 CFR part 21 (Bid Protests).

(f) Decisions pursuant to Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76, Performance of Commercial Activities.

(g) Decisions concerning contracts under the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended.

(h) Decisions covered by the Contract Disputes Act.

(i) Decisions involving Agency personnel matters.

(j) Decisions where relief sought is reformation of a contract or award of monetary damages.

(k) Decisions made during the preliminary planning process pursuant to 36 CFR part 219 and 40 CFR parts 1500–1508 that precede decisions to implement the proposed action.

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(l) Decisions related to National Forest land and resource management plans and projects only reviewable under 36 CFR part 217.

(m) Decisions related to rehabilitation of National Forest System lands and recovery of forest resources resulting from natural disasters or other natural phenomena such as wildfires, severe wind, earthquakes, and flooding when the Regional Forester or, in situations of national significance, the Chief of the Forest Service determines and gives notice that good cause exists to exempt such decisions from appeal under this subpart.

(n) Decisions imposing penalties for archaeological violations under 36 CFR 296.15 or for violations of prohibitions and orders under 36 CFR part 261.

(o) Reaffirmation of prior decisions.

[54 FR 3362, Jan. 23, 1989, as amended at 54 FR 34510, Aug. 21, 1989]

§ 251.84 Obtaining notice.

(a) A Deciding Officer shall promptly give written notice of decisions subject to appeal under this subpart to applicants and holders defined in § 251.86 of this subpart and to any holder of like instruments who has made a written request to be notified of a specific decision. The notice shall include a statement of the Deciding Officer's willingness to meet with applicants or holders to hear and discuss any concerns or issues related to the decision (§ 251.93). The notice shall also specify the name of the officer to whom an appeal of the decision may be filed, the address, and the deadline for filing an appeal.

(b) In States with Department of Agriculture certified mediation programs, a Deciding Officer shall also give written notice of the opportunity for the affected term grazing permit holder to request mediation of decisions to suspend or cancel term grazing permits, in whole or in part, pursuant to 36 CFR 222.4(a)(2)(i), (ii), (iv), (v) and (a)(3) through (a)(6). Such notice must inform the permit holder that, if mediation is desired, the permit holder must request mediation as part of the filing of an appeal.

[54 FR 3362, Jan. 23, 1989, as amended at 64 FR 37846, July 14, 1999]

§ 251.85 Election of appeal process.

(a) No decision can be appealed by the same person under both this subpart and part 217 of this chapter.

(b) Should a decision be reviewable under this subpart as well as part 217 of this chapter, a party who qualifies to bring an appeal under this subpart can elect which process to use for obtaining review of a decision, but in so doing, the appellant thereby forfeits all right to appeal the same decision under the other review process. However, a holder who waives the right to appeal under the provisions of 36 CFR part 217 may intervene pursuant to 36 CFR 217.6(b).

§ 251.86 Parties.

Only the following may participate in the appeals process provided under this subpart:

(a) An applicant who, in response to a prospectus or written solicitation or other notice by the Forest Service, files a formal written request for a written authorization to occupy and use National Forest System land covered under § 251.82 of this subpart and

(1) Was denied the authorization, or

(2) Was offered an authorization subject to terms and conditions that the applicant finds unreasonable or impracticable.

(b) The signatory(ies) or holder(s) of a written authorization to occupy and use National Forest System land covered under § 251.82 of this subpart who seeks relief from a written decision related to that authorization.

(c) An intervenor as defined in § 251.81 of this subpart.

(d) The Deciding Officer who made the decision being appealed under this subpart.

§ 251.87 Levels of appeal.

(a) *Decisions made by the Chief.* If the Chief of the Forest Service is the Deciding Officer, the appeal is to the Secretary of Agriculture. Review by the Secretary is discretionary. Within 15 calendar days of receipt of a timely notice of appeal, the Secretary shall determine whether or not to review the decision. If the Secretary has not decided to review the Chief's decision by the expiration of the 15-day period, the requester(s) shall be notified by the